

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the after final amendment filed on 6/17/2008, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 13, 14, 18-20, 23-25, 28-30, 32, 33, 37, 38, 116, 131 and 134-146 are pending.

Examiner's amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Oleg F. Kaplun (45,559) on 07/01/2008. The Examiner's amendment was necessary in order to correct a potential claim objection in claim 134.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

134. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 131, wherein allowing the group of users to connect, further comprises:

allowing at least one user to connect to the network location when encryption of bar code information is not indicated and not allowing the user to connect to the ~~Internet Portal~~ network location when encryption of the bar code information is indicated.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 13, 14, 18-20, 23-25, 28-30, 32, 33, 37, 38, 116, 131 and 134-146 have been allowed over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest: (regarding claim 1 and dependents) said portion of the received bar code information comprising data relating to a type of destination information, using said type of destination information for accessing from the remote device data stored at a network location referenced by the identified portion of the destination information; (regarding claim 20 and dependents) said portion of the received bar code information comprising data relating to a type of destination information, using said type of destination information for accessing a network location referenced by the identified portion of the destination information; (regarding claim 116 and dependents) the bar code having an associated prefix portion, wherein the prefix portion indicated whether to deactivate encryption, receiving information represented in the prefix portion of the bar code and connecting a user to the entity based on information represented in the bar code and based on information represented in the prefix portion; (regarding claim 131 and dependents) a portion of the received bar codes comprising data relating to a type of destination information and using said type of destination information for accessing a network location referenced by destination information accessible by the remote device; (regarding claim 137 and dependents) where the bar code has an associated prefix portion that indicates whether to deactivate encryption, receiving at a device, bar code information and information

represented by the prefix portion and based on the information represented by the prefix portion, displaying at least a portion of the bar code information on a display associated with the device or connecting the device to a remote location indicated in the bar code information; in combination with the other limitations as recited in the claims.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 11-17, of the amendment filed on 6/22/2006, with respect to Hudetz et al and Sloane failing to teach said portion of the received bar code information comprising data relating to a type of destination information and using said type of destination information for accessing, has been considered and is persuasive.

Regarding claims 116 and 137-144: Bianco teaches a bar code strip 20 including bar code 12 and bar code 22 (see figure 2). While bar code symbol 22 is encrypted (see column 4, lines 1-9), Bianco does not teach or suggest a method having a bar code including a prefix portion where the prefix portion indicates whether to deactivate encryption; and connecting and/or displaying information based on information represented in the prefix portion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2391. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jared J. Fureman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2876

July 3, 2008